

MANDALA FOR MANDELA

July 19, 1918 – December 5, 2013

(On the release of Nelson Mandela from prison, February 11, 1990)

The brown earth cracks
and shouts.

The wind chants a planetary salute.

Stars turn night to day.

Millions of hearts burst.

The toi-toi trotting of the young warriors
sounds like thunder,
convulsing the hills.

The world's wheels squeal, racing
to the greeting circle.

We hold each other, crowding like
shy, happy children
to behold the WONDER:
YOU BACK AMONG US.

The sky s m i l e s.

Hello, Nelson.

AMANDLA!

Our arms ache to embrace you,
SURVIVOR OF SOLITUDE,
DARK SUN OF CERTITUDE,
FLESH AND BONE of Africans' deepest longings.

AMANDLA! AMANDLA!

Another son, who is the Word,
is home
and dwelling with us.

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